


Replacement of "Backyard" Water Mains & Services Hillcrest Drive, Alden Drive, Standish Court 2021

City of Madison Water Board Presentation

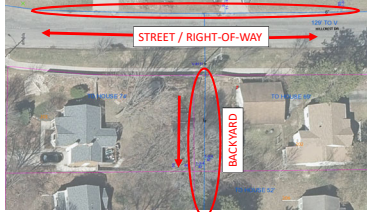
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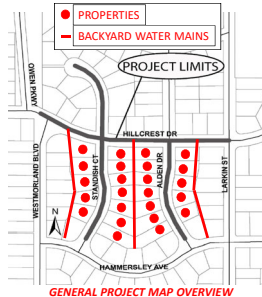
General Background

- Certain areas of the MWU system have aging water mains located through the back lot lines of properties rather than in the city-owned street (right-of-way).
- Easement records are not always clear for rights of access and maintenance by MWU.
- General accessibility and maintenance is often difficult regardless of easement rights.
- As these pipes continue to age, they pose greater risks to adjacent properties and MWU for damage and repair complications.



A GIS mapping excerpt of a "backyard" water main vs. a "street" (right-of-way) water main.

Project Overview



GENERAL PROJECT MAP OVERVIEW

- Street reconstruction and utility replacement work on Hillcrest Drive, Alden Drive, and Standish Court.
- 24 homes receiving water from backyard water mains constructed in the 1940's.
- New utility infrastructure to be placed in streets / right-of-way areas along property frontages.
- New services placed in front of property frontages, to be coordinated with property owners for connection into their homes.
- Existing sanitary sewer also in backyard areas in this neighborhood and following a similar process within this project.


New Service Connection Coordination

- Collaborative planning effort between MWU, City Engineering, property owners, and licensed plumbers.
- As part of construction project outreach, MWU sent letters about the backyard water mains/services and the importance their replacement.
- Due to liability limitations, private, licensed plumbers were required for work on the properties and within the homes:
 - Rearranging interior plumbing, usually from the back of a home to the front of a home.
 - Connecting to the new service at the property's frontage/right-of-way.
- MWU offers reimbursement program for expenses related to private property plumbing work – 50% of costs, up to \$1,500.

EXCERPTS FROM AN EXAMPLE LETTER TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Outcomes

- Water mains and services right-of-way work was completed in the summer of 2021.
- Properties have until June 2023 to coordinate with plumbers and complete reconnection work within their home.
 - Extended deadline due to current workforce availability.
 - Once all services are removed from the backyard water mains, they will be abandoned with minimal impact to the new construction.
- Several reimbursements already processed.
 - Average reimbursement amount has been \$700 so far.
 - Costs are controlled when property owners seek multiple bids from plumbers and possible "bulk rates" if they are able to coordinate the work in tandem with the sewer requirements or other neighbors.



EXAMPLE REIMBURSEMENT FORM FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO FILL OUT

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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